



G I S B A L,

A N

Hyperborean Tale:

TRANSLATED

From the FRAGMENTS

OF

OSSIAN, the Son of FINGAL.



(Price One Shilling.)



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A N

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OF

O S S I A N

The SON of

F I N G A L.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

• ¶ (c) = ‡ * etc, || † (p) = ** xy.
vet. Inscript. ap. GRONOV.



L O N D O N:

Printed for the Author, and Sold by J. PRIDDEN, at the
Feathers in Fleet-Street, near Fleet-Bridge.

MDCCLXII.

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G I S B A L,

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Hyperborean Tale.

IN the Days of *Zerobabel*, the *Hittite*, being the First of the Month *Nissan*, and in the One hundred and Sixty-third Year after the Destruction of *Jerusalem* by *Nebuchadnezzar* the *Assyrian*, there came unto the City of the Lord, a mighty Man from the *North*. He was by the Head and Shoulders taller than any Person throughout all *Israel*, and his **STAFF**, which he always bare *up-right*, was equal in Bigness unto a Weaver's Beam. Thus *armed*, he appeared in the

B King's

King's Presence, who said unto him, Who art thou? And he replied and said, I am *Gisbal* the *Hebronite*, come to bear rule over thee and over thy *Household*, for the Lord hath sent me; but the King mocked at his Words as of one beside himself, for he wist not at that Time who he was. Nevertheless there were some about the King's Person who told it unto the Women, and they straightway reported it unto *Bathsheba* the *Hittite*, who was a *Widow*, and a Mourner in the King's Household.

Now she being smitten with the Fame of the Man, and desirous of knowing whether those Things which they reported of him were true, sent one privily to him, who should command him to repair unto her Palace on the Morrow. And when the Messenger came, he found him alone musing in his Tent, and ruminating on the Means to recommend himself unto the King's Notice. Such was the State of *Gisbal* the *Hebronite*, when the Messenger who had been sent unto him stood before him; and he bowed, and said, I am *Tischa*, the Son of *Accad* the Seer;

my

my Business is to wait on the King's Daughter, who hearing of thy Fame, hath commanded me to repair unto thee, and tell thee, that she expects thy Attendance on the Morrow; for much the Report of thy gigantick Stature hath moved her, and thy *upright Staff* equal in Bigness to a Weaver's Beam. Hasten then, mighty Son of *Hebron*, to the Princess, for great are the Honours that this Day await thee.

Thus spake *Tisba* the Son of *Accad* the Seer, and to him thus replied *Gisbal*, the Chief: Thy Words are as Honey to my Mouth, yea even as fine Oil unto my Lips; when the Day shall come (for well I wot that it shall hereafter arrive) wherein my Head shall be lifted up above those of my Fellow-Servants, then shall this Kindness be repaid unto thee seven-fold, yea thine own self shalt taste of the Blessing, and thy Head also be raised above the rest of thy Fellow-Servants. At these Words *Accad* left him, and returned to *Bathsheba*, unto whom he reported what he had done; and the Thing pleased her exceedingly, and she waited with Impatience for the Morrow. Now

Now it came to pass that on the Morrow, ere Evening-Tide was yet began, that the Princess, arrayed in gorgeous Apparel, waited the Coming of the *Herbonite*. Her Vestments were of fine Silk and Needlework, and on her Head was placed a Crown of pure Gold; her Damsels attended in Order round her, and in this State she tarried his Coming. While they thus waited his Coming with Impatience, *Gisbal* appeared on a sudden before them; he appeared arrayed in all his Glory, and his Countenance was like that of the Sun when he shineth abroad on the Vallies of *Judab*; erect as a Spear was his *Staff*, and his Port that of a Warriour issuing forth to Battle. The Princess marvelled at his Presence, and without further Hesitation her Words thus gave Utterance to the Thoughts of her Heart.

O ! Chief, mighty in Stature, and in thy upright *Staff*, say whence thou art, and what Cause it is that hath led thee to these Regions; for till this Day mine Eyes never beheld thee before, nor has the Fame of thy Prowess reached mine Ears. Much have I
heard

heard reported, indeed, concerning the valiant Deeds of the Sons of *Hebron*, for much they report of their own Doings; but till Yesterday thy Name never reached mine Ears, though thy *Staff* and gigantick Size speak thee more than human.

GISEAL crouched and bowed low, thus saluting *Bathsheba* with Honours meet: Thrice he essayed to speak, and thrice the faltering Accents died away on his Tongue. At length his Words found Utterance, and he thus spake advisedly with his Lips.

O! Princess, whose Renown has filled all the Land, thou who in Person art fairer than the Daughters of Women; listen unto the Words of my Mouth, and ponder well these Sayings in thine Heart. The barren Mountains of *Hebron* have given me Birth, and my Fields are naked as the craggy Rock. From these Nature, which bids us all, bad me also fly; and I now seek for Refuge in thy Palace. While yet in my Cradle, ere my Mind had received its first Impressions, and the Dictates of Reason were

Strangers

Strangers to my Breast, a cunning Woman foretold my Lot, and from my Mother to whom she foretold it, I learnt the glad Tidings.

“ CHILD of Fortune (said she) born in the craggy Mountains of *Hebron*, thus the Fates bid me say : When thy Sinews shall have gathered Strength, and thy Arms become brawny with the Might of thy Muscles, then shall the Hour of thy Glory draw nigh, and Honour and Grandeur call for thy Approach. But hasten, my Son, hasten then to quit the barren Hills of *Hebron*, and those rugged Mountains whose Tops are covered with eternal Snow ; on this Side of *Jordan* is no Welfare, no Portion for the Children of *Hebron*, but in the Land of *Ham*. Arise then quickly, thou and thy Wife, and thy Children, and pass over into the Valley of *Judah*, for there shall ye find Comfort, and your Seed be in Number as the Sand on the Sea Shore. Mark well my Words, and listen unto the Instruction of my Lips : Let not thy Thoughts run after Wisdom, nor thy Heart seek to know Understanding;

ing; for in an *upright Staff* is more Power, and Words but fall short of the Merit of a gigantick Size. In these, place all thy Hopes of Happiness, and by these alone expect to bear Sway: Cherish them then carefully, I charge thee, and let not the meaner Cares of Learning and Policy disturb thy Mind: From *Bathsheba*, the *Hittite*, shalt thou find Protection, and her Love be unto thee in the Place of all these Things."

So spake the Dame whom Years and Experience had rendered sage; and thus the Chief with the *upright Staff* rejoined:

Mindful of her Precepts, my sole Care has been to cherish those bodily Endowments Nature has given me, and my Mind is not expert in the crafty Ways of Men; but if Days of Pleasure touch thy Soul, if the Delights of Love can find a Place in thine Heart, consider more my *upright Staff*, and gigantick Stature, and let these be unto thee instead of sound Wisdom.

HERE

HERE the *Hebronite* ended, and it pleased *Bathsheba* well, and all her Servants; and she said unto *Gishai*, My Palace and lofty Roof be thine; thine be also the Care of my *Household*: For well I ween, that in Man the best Quality is an *upright Staff*, and his Stature that of a Hero of gigantick Size. Haste thee then back again into thy own Country, and take thy Children, and thine Household, and bring them unto me; and I will give you the Good of the Land to live upon, and ye shall eat of the Fat thereof. Now thou art commanded, this do; take thee Waggons out of the Land of *Judab*, and bring up thy little ones, and thy Wife, and Relations, and come; also regard not your Stuff, for the Good of all the Land of *Israel* is before ye.

AND he did as he was commanded, and he took him Waggons out of the Land of *Judab*, and he set out on his Journey; he also took with him Corn, and Bread, and Meat for his Household by the Way, for in the Land of *Hebron* was there none to be had. And when he was come there, he
told

told his Relations those Things that had befallen him, and on hearing thereof they rejoiced with an exceeding great Joy.

Now the Fame of these Tidings went through all the *billy* Country, and in the Mountains of *Hebron* was there none like unto *Gisbal* for Glory: And behold when the Time was come that they should set out, he carried his Wife, and his Children, and his Relations, in the Waggon, and they took their Journey unto *Beer-Sheba*, which, in their Language, signifieth, *the Place of Joy*: From hence they rose up on the Morrow, and continued their Way in the Waggon, which they had gotten in the Land of *Judab*. *Gisbal*, and his Wife, and his Children, and his Relations, were in the Waggon, but of Household Stuff had they none, having none to bring.

AND when they were come unto the Land of *Israel*, it was told unto *Bathsheba*, Behold the *Hebronite*, and his Brethren, and his Relations are come: And she ordered them to be brought before her, and treated them all kindly for *Gisbal's* Sake.

Now these be the Names of those that came down into the Land, even of those that came with *Gisbal* unto the Land of *Ju-dab* : *

Mizraim and *Ludim*, and *Amamim* and *Lebauim* ;

Dedan, with the yellow Hair, and *Jubal*, a Player upon *Wind* Instruments ;

Ossian, by the Mother, descended from the Kings of the Isles, and *Fingal*, famed for the *Length of his Talons* : With these he used frequently to *divert* himself, and the *Touch of his Nail* was as Music to his Soul.

Gimel, revered for his *second Sight* ; *Meshech*, known by his *broad Sword* and *Target* ;

Gomer, who eat Oats like an Horse, and *Racab* of Spirit that could brook no Equal ;

Baal, short in Stature : In his Countenance hard-featured and swarthy. He was the Offspring of an unlawful Passion, having been begot by a Satyr on a Sorceress, in the Mountains of *Hebron* ;

* From this Page were taken the Hints for that very humorous Print, of which so many Hundreds have been sold, entitled, *GISBAL's Preferment, or the Importation of the HEBRONITES* : To be had of the Publisher of this Pamphlet.

Tubal also and *Cush*, and *Seba* and *Havilah*
 And *Erech* noted for his *high Cheek Bones*,
 and *Nimrod*, a mighty Hunter among the
 wild Woods of *Hebron*;

Babel, famous for his *cloven Tongue*, *Ris-
 sen* who went clad in a Garment of *divers*
Colours;

Hadoram and *Dikiab*, and *Uzai* and *Obal*;

Gether, of Temper that thought Nothing
 mean, and *Jocktan*, patient of any Affronts.

In the whole Land was there none like unto
Jocktan for Meekness, where the Interests of
 the Family had any Concern.

Heth, whose Skin was spotted like a *Liz-
 zard*, and *Eber*, of *Posteriors* that disdained
 the Use of *Breeches*;

Amram, whose Pores emitted a goatish
 Odour, and *Zimri*, the *Cacus* of the North;

THESE, with their Wives and their Chil-
 dren, came down into the Land of *Judah*,
 but of Stuff or of Cattle brought they with
 them Nought. In Threecore and Ten
 Waggons came they down, and were placed
 by *Bathsheba* in the Country of *Goshen*. And

Many other Designs have been taken from different Parts of
 this Performance, though not acknowledged by the Englar

their Dwelling was from *Mesha*, as thou goest unto *Sepbar*, a Mount of the North; from *Gilgal*, even unto the City of *Gera*. According to their Families, and their Tongues and their Nations, were they placed; but *Gisbal* was retained about her own Person, where he waxed mighty in Strength and in Honour, and grew every Day more in Favour in the Eyes of *Bathsheba*.

ABOUT the same Time, *Zerobabel* the *Hittite*, who had sat upon the Throne of his Ancestors for many Years, slept, and was gather'd unto his Fore-fathers; and throughout all *Israel* was there great Mourning for him during many Months; for he governed the Kingdom of *Judah* several Years, according to the Rules of Truth and Uprightness, and the *Israelites* lamented him as a common Father.

GISBAL alone and *Bathsheba* mourned not, for the Day of his Death was unto them as a Day of Triumph: They even sang them Songs of Joy and Deliverance, and fitted the same unto the Sounds of musical Instruments. *Gisbal* sang first, thus accompanying

companying his Song with the pleasing Voice of the Soul-lulling Bag-pipe. On his Right was placed *Bathsheba*, and all the Chiefs of the *Hebronites* stood before them :

OH! joyful Day, foretold me of Yore,
when my Mind was yet a Stranger to
the Ways of Happiness.

Lo! the Time now approacheth wherein
I shall rejoice, when my Soul shall drink her
Fill of Power and Glory.

Bear witness, ye *Hebronites*, bear witness
to my Vows, for they are not the Vows of
one light-minded:

In my Strength shall ye all meet with
Protection, and your Safety be under the
Shadow of my Wings:

Under the Shadow of my Wings shall ye
find Comfort, from those who fain would
triumph over ye :

And ye shall share my Glories, ye shall
be unto me as the Children of mine own
Mother :

My Dwellings shall be your Dwellings,
and ye shall all be Chiefs, and Rulers, and
Princes in the Land :

But

But Woe unto you, ye Children of *Israel*,
Woe unto you that abide in the Tents of
Judah:

Long have my Swellings been to you
ward as the Juice of Gall, yea even as the
baneful Juices of Hemlock;

In the Days of *Zerobabel* ye withheld me
from Honours, ye confined all Power and
Dignity to yourselves:

Ye trusted me not with the Management
of your *Armies*, nor were your *Treasures*
committed unto my Charge:

Ye represented me to your Monarch as
unable to serve, as one of no Account be-
fore him:

He held me in small Esteem, and I be-
came as Nought in his Sight:

Yet some few Honours I gained, I gained
them through the Importunity of my love-
ly *Bathsheba*:

To her my upright Staff was of Service,
and my gigantick Stature found Favour in
her Eyes:

Lament then, lament, ye Sons of *Judah*;
ye Children of *Israel* raise your Voice:

Ye

Ye strove by Merit to recommend yourselves to your King: Ye filled his Ears with good Counsel, and your Words were unto him as the Words of Understanding:

Ye carried his Arms to Glory, and your Prowess was shown under his Banners:

But I will none of these Things, my Mind shall be turned unto mine own Glory:

On my Staff and my Size will I look for Defence, and Love and Ambition shall crown all my Actions:

Then shall ye see me with Dismay at your Hearts, then shall your Courage sink before me:

Ye shall be scattered as Dust before the Wind, even as the Cedar on the cold Tops of Hebron, before the Northern Blast:

Thus sang *Gisbal*, the *Hebronite*, and in Strains of Joy thus *Bathsheba* replied:

MY Love shall be as the Roe on the Mountains, like the wild Goat, that knoweth no Ruler:

He shall command and Men shall straightway obey, they shall tremble at the Nod of *Gisbal*, the Lord of *Hebron*:

His

His Horn shall be exalted above those of the *Israelites*, the Sons of *Judah* shall bow before him :

They shall bow the Knee at his Approach, and Honour, Riches, and Power shall tarry his Coming :

At the Coming of the Lord of *Hebron* they shall rejoyce, and none other shall bear Rule but him :

Haste then, ye *Israelites* to pay Homage at his Shrine, for as my Soul liveth ye shall be as Nought in my Sight :

Long enough have I borne with your Malice, long has my Delight known the Mockery of your Tongues :

I despise your Rage, and your Resentments are all as Chaff before me :

For who am I, that I should be controuled by your Counfel ; that I should listen to Advice, and be one Moment with-held from the Desires of mine own Heart?

Am not I *Bathsheba*, the *Hittite*, and are ye not all born to live by the Smiles of my Countenance ?

If I turn away my Face, ye are afraid, and ye exist but at my Pleasure :

Avaunt,

Avaunt then, ye base-born *Israelites*, lest
I trample ye as the Dust beneath my Feet :

For my Love shall bear rule over every
Thing, and his Voice shall be as the Voice of
Thunder :

But do you, ye Nymphs of *Hebron*, re-
joice, prepare your choicest Gifts for my
Love :

Prepare your Songs of Praise, and let
your Stories record his Honours :

For on your Hills shall his Blessings be
known, and your Mountains ring with his
Triumph :

Your Sons and your Daughters shall share
his Blessings, while the *Israelites* shall serve
but to swell his Glory :

They shall serve as Drawers of Water
and Hewers of Wood, and their Substance
shall be all consigned to your Uses :

For I *Bathsheba*, the *Hittite*, have said it,
and from my Words there is no Appeal.

SHE spoke, and straightway her Will was
accomplished, the Sons of *Hebron* ruled
throughout the Land. In the Fleets of *Sal-*
em, in her Armies, theirs were the chief Ho-

D

nours,

nours, and the *Israelites* became Drawers of Water and Hewers of Wood ; while *Gisbal* sat at the Head of her Council, and Nought was regarded but the Words of his Mouth.

THUS fwayed *Gisbal* the *Hebronite*, and his Power and Authority were known thro' all the Land : From him alone descended Honour and Riches, and his Smiles were as the Dew of Heaven. But yet Uneasiness dwelt at his Heart, and his Mind knew not perfect Peace ; for in the King's Council still remained *Hushai* the *Archite*, who had been the Servant of *Zerobabel*, and of his Son after him ; and *Hushai* was a wise Counsellour, trusty in Deeds, and mighty in Words. By his Advice the *Philistines* had often been smitten with great Slaughter, and the very Borders of *Egypt* trembled at his Name : From *Dan* even to *Beersheba* smote he them, and they durst not abide the Terrours of his Wrath.

THE Brightness of these Deeds made *Gisbal* sad ; his Countenance waxed pale at the Thoughts of *Hushai* : He became as one whose

whose Heart was heavy laden with Sorrow, his Brow was that of a Man worn out with Afflictions; he fasted, and anointed himself not, neither changed he his Apparel; he went in, and lay all Night upon the Earth, and refused to take any Comfort. The Elders of his House arose and went to him, to raise him up from the Earth, but he would not, neither did he eat Bread with them.

AND behold one went and told these Tidings to *Bathsheba*, saying, O! Princess, live for ever: Lo the Chief of the *Hebronites*, our Glory, our Protection, refuseth to take Comfort, and his Heart is sore smitten with the Rod of Affliction; on the Ground he lieth, nor will he be raised up; he refuseth to eat Bread, and his Ears are deaf to the Voice of Entreaty; the Elders of his House advise him in vain; he listeneth not unto their Words, neither careth he in the least for their Counsel. Hie thee, then, generous Princess, to his Relief, and by thy Presence revive his drooping Spirits.

$$D_{12} \rho_0 H_1 \text{ and } \rho_0 H_2$$

HE said; and straightway *Bathsheba* set forth: She made no Reply, but hastened to his Assistance. Swift as the Mountain Roe she hasted, and her Steps were as those of the Hare, when pursued by the nimble Hunter; when over Hill and Dale she maketh her way, and leaveth not the Print of her Feet in the Sand.

THUS hastened *Bathsheba* to her beloved *Gisbal*, to the Lord of her Heart, beyond whom she knew no Comfort. She found him lying upon the Ground, his Beard unshaven, and his Apparel the Apparel of him that mourneth.

O! *GISBAL*, Chief of the *Hebronites*, she said, thou in whom alone my Soul resteth. Why art thou thus fallen? Why is thy Body wasted by long Fasting? Has any one of the *Israelites* dared to offend my Love? Has their impious Breath been raised against his Honour? Tell me, that, in my Ire, I may crush them; that, in the Over-flowings of my Wrath, I may bear them down. Or has my Love any Honour yet further to ask?

Any

Any Boon that *Bathsheba* can yet procure thee? On the Wings of the Wind shall thy Desires be borne, and my Speed shall exceed that of the swift-flying Eagle.

SHE spoke, and *Gisbal* lifted up his Head, at the Sound of her Voice he felt Comfort: O! Princess, he replied, thy Words move me, they dart new Vigour into my Soul. Yet what availeth it to live? Why should I seek to prolong my Days? Are not my Years spent in Dishonour, and my Life as that of one who goeth down to the Grave? *Hushai*, the *Archite*, obscureth me with his Glory; his Lustre is as the Splendour of Diamonds: Wherever the Sun shineth, from the utmost Borders of *Horeb*, even unto the *Red Sea*, so far his Actions are known, and Men speak of his Praise. But of me, who sayeth any-thing? Who talketh of the Exploits performed by my Counsel? They are no more than the Deeds of one who has been long forgotten, yea I am numbered as it were among the very dead. Cease then, gentle Princess, to mourn my Fate; let the Lot of *Gisbal* no longer claim any Portion
of

of thy Sorrow. While *Hushai* the *Archite* holdeth the Reins of Government, my Soul can know no Comfort, nor will there remain any Portion for *Gishai* in the Land of *Ham*.

So spake the Chief, and reclined his drooping Head once more on the Ground; his mighty Limbs were levelled in the Dust. He groaned as one in Agony, and the Voice of his Howling was heard afar off.

BATHSHEBA surveyed his prostrate State with Compassion, her Looks spoke the Tumult in her Bosom: For a while she hung mourning over him, bedewing his brawny Cheeks with her Tears. At length she broke Silence, and thus gave Vent to the Sorrows of her Breast.

Son of *Hebron*, the Delight of my Heart! Thou on whose Happiness are founded all the Joys of my Life! Why mourneth thy Heart so heavily? And wherefore is thy Soul disquieted within thee? Behold, are not the Riches of mine House thine? And have I not put all Things into thine Hand?

If

If *Hushai*, the *Archite*, yet beareth Rule in the King's Councils, have not his Services merited that Honour? And is he not every Day crowning us with new Glories? Yet, if his Merit obscure thine, if the Fame of his Doings over-shadow thy Lustre, worthy as he is, he shall no longer be known among us, he shall become as one of the meanest among the People. Though arduous the Task, my Hand shall overturn him, and his Name shall be heard of no more.

SHE said, and with her comely Tresses wiped away the Tears; with Accents mild she chased away Sorrow from his Heart. He arose as one refreshed with Wine, as a Giant prepared to run his Course; he gat him off the Earth, and was shaven; he put him on cleanly Apparel; he took Bread and eat it, and drank of the Juice of the Vine.

Now when Evening was come, and the Sun had hid him behind the Western Mountains, *Bathsheba*, mindful of the Affairs of *Gishai*, hastened to the Palace where *Joash* rested. The Watchmen descried her from afar,

afar, and the brazen Portals were immediately thrown wide open to her : The King also knew the Sound of her Chariot ; he distinguished the Rattling of her Chariot-Wheels : He met her at the Entrance of his Tent, and thus with filial Reverence began :

O ! Welcome to these Abodes, thou who gavest me Birth, thou in whose Womb I was nourished during many Months. Is there ought that my Power can yet do for thee ? Ought that thou wouldest have called thine ? Speak, and it shall straightway be granted ; let me know thy Wish, and it shall be satisfied : Yea even unto the Half of my Kingdom shall it be satisfied, let thy Son but know the Wish of thy Soul.

He ended, and with Looks of Tenderness gazed upon her ; of Tenderness made up of Love and filial Respect : For in all *Israel* was there not a better Son than *Joash*, nor had a more grateful Offspring ever existed in the Land of *Ham*.

THE WATCHMAN DELIVERED HER FROM
WELL.

WELL-PLEASED *Bathsheba* beheld his yielding Countenance, and with Transport eyed the grateful Purpose of his Heart. Encouraged by his Looks, she thus bespoke him, and in Accents mild preferred the Words of her Suit.

My Son, knowest thou not *Gisbal* the *Hebronite*? Rememberest thou not his Cares of thee of old? When as yet thy tender Years knew not the Difference between Good and Evil, when thy Mind was scarcely weaned from the Cradle. It was he that trained thee up to Virtue, it was his Instructions that taught thee to thirst after Fame. Lo! For him I now come a Suitour, for him I now lay myself prostrate at thy Feet: His Advancement is the Purpose of my Coming, and the Cause of this Visit the Rewards that are his Due. As yet but sparingly hath he tasted of thy Favours, and the Honours hitherto conferred upon him are but small: For while *Husbai* ruleth in the King's Councils, who is there of any Account but him? And what Lustre is there compared with the Splendour of his Brows? Even thine own

E

Person

Person suffereth Diminution by his Honours,
and verily the Crown resteth as it were upon
his Head.

So spake *Bathsheba* unto *Joash* King of
Judah, misleading his Heart with glozing
Speech; for well he knew that in *Hushai*
there was no Guile, and that his Diadem
had but shone the brighter for the Strength
of his Counsels: He knew also that in *Gisba*
there was little Worth; that his Thoughts
were not so well turned towards Govern-
ment: That it was from *Jehoiada* the *Benja-*
mite he had first learned Wisdom, and that it
was he who taught his Heart to seek Un-
derstanding.

NEVERTHELESS, for his Word's Sake,
he dismissed *Hushai* from his Councils; he
dismissed him from his Councils, but it was
with Honour: And there was great Mur-
muring throughout all *Israel*, for they look-
ed upon *Hushai* as their Buckler and Shield.

YET there were not wanting some among
them to reproach him, even some of the
Sons

Sons of *Belial*, employed by *Gisbal* the *Hēbronite*: These represented his Honours as a Bribe, as a Bribe for deserting the Interests of *Judab*.

BUT the *Israelites* thought better of him; they remembered his Counsels in Days of Yore; when the *Philistines* were e'en hard at their Gates, and there was no one who durst oppose them: then stood up *Hushai* the *Archite*, and by his Counsels recovered their Spoils again from the Enemy; he recovered their Spoils from the Enemy, and smote them even in their fenced Towns: *Joppa* and *Gaza*, and *Calab* took he, with *Sidon* on the Sea Side, and *Haran*, as thou goest unto the Country of the *Moabites*: *Edom* also and *Nineveh*, and *Ziglag*, and *Ashtaroth*, with *Caphtarim* on the *Dead Sea*, and *Reboboth* on the Borders of the *Wilderness*: All these Towns took he, and rased, or gave to be inhabited by the Children of *Israel*; he rased them with their Walls and Towers, and left not their Bulwarks standing: Yea even in the Isles of the Sea were they not secure, inso-much that the Name of the *Philistines* was

no longer heard, but with Derision, in the Land.

THESE Things remembered the *Israelites* well, and would not be brought to think Evil of him : They considered his *Out-Goings* and his *Comings-in*, and no Fault had they to lay to his Charge.

BUT yet *Gisbal* the Son of *Hebron* prevailed, and he waxed mightier and mightier every Day : The *Hebronites* rejoiced in his Protection, and they multiplied under the Shadow of his Wings. Day by Day grew they in Power, till the Multitude of them over-ran the Land : They devoured up the Fruits of the Earth like Locusts, and the Number of them was more than the Sand of the Sea.

YET, by their Help, did *Gisbal* nothing marvellous, he performed no Wonders against the Enemies of the Land : He even suffered them to gather Strength, and they threatened once more to insult their Coasts ; on the Borders of the Ocean were their
Troops

Troops gathered, and their Navies grew powerful in their Harbours: They even dared to scour the Seas, and appear yet once again abroad upon the Billows.

IN all this Time *Gisbal* gave up his Heart to Pride, and cared him not for these Doings: He even joined in oppressing the Children of *Israel*, and by his Management Corn and Wine and Oil grew dear among them: One fifth Part of all their Substance did they pay unto the King, and much besides of their Wealth was carried into the King's Coffers: Yet murmured they not thereat, nor repined at these Doings; for greatly loved they the Royal Household, and revered above all their King *Joash*: They had stood up for his Family in perilous Times, even when *Rehoboam* and the *Hebronites* would have rent the Kingdom from them.

NEVERTHELESS could they not help sorrowing in their Hearts, to behold their Treasures wasted, and the Strength of the Enemy suffered to increase. They lamented to see their Sons and their Daughters laid aside,

aside to make Room for the *Hebronites*, and their Children evil treated for their Sakes.

Now so it fell, that in the King's Household still remained a Man who had served the Kings of *Israel* for Years, with Uprightness : In their Service was he grown hoary, and the Honours of old Age sat venerable on his Brow. Full forty Years and upwards had he served them with Integrity, and the Force of Gold had no Power over his Heart ; though trusted with the Care of the King's Coffers, with Integrity had he discharged the Office, and his own Wealth knew no Increase : He even spent the little he had upon them, yea he spent the Inheritance left him by his Fore-fathers ; nor reserved he ought unto himself, besides the Power of appointing the King's Servants. In this he shewed himself wise, he shewed himself faithful to the King his Master ; for he gat none round him but such as had approved themselves trusty, none but such as he knew true to the Interests of the House of *Joash* : As for the *Hebronites* and the *Perizzites*, he kept them at a Distance, the *Amalekites* also, with

all

all those that inhabited to the North of *Jordan*. He remembered their frequent Rebellions against *Israel*, and how they cleaved unto *Rehoboam* in the Days of Trouble; he knew also their stubborn Spirit, and that they were a perverse and stiff-necked Generation; For these Reasons kept he them at a Distance, nor suffered them to bear Rule in the Land.

BUT behold the Time was now come, when all his Services were to be imputed to him as Dishonour: When his Integrity was no more to be remembered, and his Uprightness was to be blotted entirely out of Sight. For *Gisbal* and the *Hebronites* had long sought his Destruction, and the Phial of their Wrath was now ready to be poured out upon him.

YET how to go about it they knew not: They knew his Power and Interest in *Israel*. They knew also his Services to the House of *Joash*, and the King's Goodness towards all that deserved it. At the Thoughts therefore of these Things *Gisbal* waxed afraid,
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the Blood once more forsook his lifeless Cheeks; his Brow became clouded with Sorrow, and the Canker of Discontent again preyed on his Mind.

BATHSHEBA, with Grief, noted the growing Change in his Countenance; soon her Eye perceived the Wound that rankled in his Heart. Impatient to relieve his Sorrows, she thus addressed him; and, with Entreaties bland, enquired into the Malady of his Soul.

WHAT new Cause of Grief thus afflicts my *Gisbal*! What fresh Mark of Discontent again sits upon his Brow? Lo! is not the Wealth of all the Land thine? And the Children of *Israel* have I not placed them all beneath thee? When thou toldest me that thou longedst for the Badge of the House of *Joash*, did not I procure it thee? Was not mine own Son laid aside for thy Sake? Was not *Husbai*, the *Archite*, dismissed for thee from the King's Councils? And shall any one now gainsay what thou doest?

THUS

THUS fought *Bathsheba* to sooth the Ma-
lady of his Soul, and in broken Strains thus
Gishai replied.

AH! What avails it, that I am decked
with the Badge of the House of *Joash*, or
that thine own Son has been laid aside for
my Sake? Are not these empty Honours?
And can my *Hebronites* live by the Splen-
dour of the *Star* that glittereth? Behold!
Are they not hungry as Wolves? Rapacious
as the savage Tiger when withheld from
Food? Numerous as the Fowls of the Air?
And their Country barren as the Deserts of
the Wilderness? How then can I hear their
Cries to me for Nourishment? How can I
bear the Complaints of the Children of mine
own Bowels? Already have I filled the Ar-
mies of *Joash* with their Tribes, and the List
of his Forces teemeth with their Names:
Yet still they call unto me for Nourish-
ment, the Voice of their crying is yet fresh
in mine Ears. While *Mordakai*, the *Jew*,
therefore sitteth at the King's Gate, how
can I be satisfied, how can my Soul know
Comfort within me? For is not the Charge

of the King's Coffers his? And all the Places
in the Land are they not at his Disposal?
Does he not fill them up with his own Bre-
thren, while my *Hebronites* are kept at an
awful Distance? Yea, we are loathsome as
Toads in his Sight, and our very Name as it
were stinketh before him.

TALK not then to me any more of Com-
fort, for while there is one greater than my-
self, how can I be satisfied? While *Mordchai*
the Jew yet sitteth at the King's Gate, how
can my Soul take Pleasure, or any Peace
dwell in the Heart of *Gishai*?

O! *Glumbella, Glumbella*, Daughter of *E-
rebus* and of Night; thou whose Power has
been known so often to stop the Sun in his
Course, and to make the Moon weep Blood
on the Hills of *Hebron*; — Who hast bad the
Whirlwind rage at thy Command, and by
thy Sorcery raised the Dead from the silent
Grave; — Thou whose Wand has been seen
to dart through the Air, swifter than a Star
shot from the spangled Heavens in a frosty
Night; or to skim over the mantled Pool

fleeter

fleet^{er} than the Swallow, when he seeketh
 his Food on the Surface of the Waters ; —
 O ! wherefore, wherefore, hast thou deceiv-
 ed me thus ? Why was the Fame of thy Ma-
 gick employed against the unsuspecting
 Heart of *Gisbal* ? Didst thou not tell my Mo-
 ther, while I was yet an Infant in the Cra-
 dle, ere my Bosom knew the slightest Im-
 pressions of Reason ? Didst thou not tell her,
 that I was born to bear Sway in *Israel*, and
 that there should be none greater than me
 in the Land of *Ham* ? Lo ! I have followed
 thy Counsel in every Thing ; I have hast-
 ed to quit the barren Hills of *Hebron* : I have
 not set my Mind after Knowledge, nor hath
 mine Heart sought to know Understanding.
 On my Staff alone have I depended for Sup-
 port ; on that magick Wand presented me
 at my Birth. Yet bear I not sole Rule in
Israel, and there is one still greater than me
 in the Land of *Ham*.

He said, and, in his Rage, threw himself
 on the Ground : In the Violence of his
 Wrath, his mighty Limbs were again laid
 level with the Dust : The Earth resounded

with his Fall, and the infernal Abodes themselves trembled at the Shock. So falls the broken Rock from the Mountains of *Hebron*, when loosened by the Hands of unrelenting Time : So falls the wild Ash on the Summits of *Gilgal*, against whose Trunk an hundred Axes have spent their Force.

Thus fell *Gisbal*, the *Hebronite* : Thus, in the Agony of his Soul, he continued to rave. For twice twenty-four Hours raved he without ceasing, and his Distraction knew no Respite : The *Hebronites* assembled all in Sorrow around him ; in dismal Yellings blubbered they forth their Cries : They looked upon the Days of his Glory as now over ; they counted him as one already numbered with the Dead. From Pole to Pole the Sound of their Lamentations flew, and farthest *Thule* re-echoed with the Noise.

MEANWHILE *Bathsheba* repaired to the Palace of *Joash*, and threw herself at his Feet in an Agony of Distress. She represented to him, in piteous Guise, the forlorn State of *Gisbal*, and besought the King's Favour

your to sooth his Woes : *Joash* shrunk back with Horrour at the Petition ; he shuddered with Fear at the Words of her Request : He called to Mind the Love of *Mordecai* towards his Family, his many Services to himself and his Fathers before him. At their Remembrance, the Blood mounted into his beauteous Checks, and with Eyes darting Fire, thus the Royal Youth began :

WHY seek ye again to lay Snares for mine Honour ? Why must the Days of my Life be disquieted on your Account ? Have I not granted ye Wealth, and Dignity and Power ? And, behold, ye are not satisfied with these ! When *Gisbal* first appeared in *Judah*, when his Person was first seen in the Land, small was the Wealth he possessed, and the Honours he had attained in Number few : yea his very Name, till that Time, was not known among us, and amidst all the Rulers of *Israel* was there none of less Account. Yet now I have raised him to Dignity and Power, now the Riches of his House have known such large Increase, ye continually teaze me with new Cravings, and my Soul knoweth no Rest

Rest thro' your Means. By your Artifices
 was *Hushai* the *Archite* driven from my Coun-
 cils, tho' in his Zeal for me he had performed
 such mighty things. Lo ! now again ye would
 deprive me of the Assistance of *Mordecai*, than
 whom a faithfuller Servant never bore Sway
 in *Israel*. Shall not these Things displease
 my People ? And will not the whole Land
 be filled with their Murmurings ? Will they
 not have Reason to complain of the Pro-
 ceedings of *Joash*, and may not the Love of
 my *Israelites* be thereby alienated from me ?
 Yet, in the Days of Peril, will your *Hebron-*
ites stand by me ? When the *Philistines* come
 upon me, shall I find Safety in their Arms ?
 Are they not all attached to the House of
Reboboam ? And, young as I am, do not I
 myself remember, when they rose up as it
 were one Man, for him ?

He said ; and, turning hastily from her,
 for that Time was a Frown first seen to de-
 form his lovely Brow : But *Bathsheba* hung
 weeping upon his Robe, and entreated him
 to have Pity upon *Gisbal* for her Sake. *Joash*
 was not used to view her in that Posture,
 his

his youthful Heart relented at her Tears :
 He raised her from the Ground, and tenderly
 embraced her ; but still bad her remember
 the Safety and Honour of his House.
 Would ye (says he) by your Entreaties wrest
 the Crown from me ? Or shall I take it off
 mine own Head, to place it on the unwor-
 thy Scalp of *Gisbal* ? If my *Israelites* are dis-
 pleased, what Reward can make me sufficient
 Recompence for the Loss of their Love ?
 And, should they withdraw their Assistance,
 shall I find Resources in the barren Hills of
Hebron ? Will her needy Sons enable me
 to pay my Armies, or her naked Fields yield
 Subsistence to my numerous Troops ? Con-
 sider well these Things ; and, while you seek
 to prefer *Gisbal*, let it not be at the Expence
 of mine Honour, and my People's Love.

So spake the Prince, as one who loved his
 People, as one who placed his chief Happi-
 ness in the Homage of their Hearts : But
Bathsheba still pressed him with her Entrea-
 ties, still urged him to comply with the
 Words of her Suit ; she persuaded him that
Mordecai was now grown old ; that his Soul

no longer thirsted after Honours. That he would joyfully resign the Charge of the King's Coffers to whomsoever he pleased; more especially if rewarded with some voluntary Token of his Royal Master's Favour. Thus he prevailed on the generous Heart of *Joash* to grant what he asked, and *Mordecai* was straightway driven from the King's Gate. The Rewards that were offered him he spurned; and, when he was thought no longer worthy to serve, would no longer receive the Wages of Service. He remembered besides, how, in the Case of *Hushai*, the *Archite*, it had been imputed to him as Guile, and the Rewards of his Labour mis-called a Bribe for his deserting the Interests of *Judah*. For these Reasons would he none of them, but contented himself with the Testimony of his own Heart: In that he found more Comfort than in Thousands of Gold and Silver, and his greatest Pride was, that he had served the House of *Joash* for many Years faithfully without Reward.

AND now were the Designs of *Gibbal* completed, and the *Hebronites* prevailed where-

ever

ever they went: In all Parts of the Kingdom of *Israel* were they scattered, and their *Croaking* was heard even in the King's Chambers. Also, instead of the pure *Israelitish* Language, nothing but the broad *Hebronitish* now resounded throughout the Land; and this begat great Murmurings in *Judah*, and Fear and Discontent and Jealousies now reigned through all her Tribes. Nevertheless there were not wanting some who sought to persuade the People that these Things were right; and there arose up false Prophets in Abundance, *long-eared* Auditours, and *Israelites* not having the Fear of God before their Eyes: These, in Conjunction with the rest of their Brethren, all Men of *Belial*, sought to persuade the People, that it was for the Good of the Kingdom that all these Things should be done; — That there was no Knowledge left in the Children of *Israel*, no Protection for them against the *Philistines* but in the Wisdom and Valour of the *Hebronites*. They sought moreover to persuade them that their Nobles were degenerated, their Sons become effeminate, their Coffers empty, and that there was a Necessity for a

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speedy,

speedy, though dishonourable Peace. They represented the mighty Performances of *Husbai* as of no Service, and that the King's Treasures had been squandered by *Mordecai* in vain Doings. Yet continued they their Imposts upon the Children of *Israel*, and laid new Duties upon their Goods; they added *Two Farthings on every Measure of Wine*, and even the *Light of Heaven* became dearer to them.

Thus fared it with the Children of *Israel* for their own Sins, and the Sins of their Forefathers; and the Lord visited them with a severe Scourge, and his Wrath was kindled very sore against them for several Months. Nevertheless prayed they without ceasing, that he would please to remove this Visitation from his People, and take Pity upon his beloved Children, for his Name's Sake; that he would incline his Heart to hear their Prayers, and banish all evil Counsellours out of the Land. And the Lord repented him of the Evil that he had done unto *Sion*, and he took Compassion once more upon his People: And he directed one to tell their
Grievances

Grievances unto *Joash*, and straightway were all evil Counsellours removed out of the Land. And the *Philistines* heard thereof, and became fore afraid, and they fled unto the *Israelites* to be made their Servants. And the King waxed mighty in Wealth and in Power, and there was none like unto him amongst all the Kings that had gone before him.

So sang *Ossian* the Son of *Pingal*, accompanying his Song with the Sound of the Harp, he was not that *Ossian* who had come into the Land in the Days of *Zerobabel*, but a true *Israelite*, in whom dwelled no Guile. He loved his King and his Country well, and his Family had always been stedfast Adherents to the House of *Joash*; nor, whenever wanted, shall his Son's Sword be tardy in their Service, or his Pen not be employed to promote their Honour: Like his Father only he disliketh the *Hebronites*, with all them that seek not to do Good in the Land. For these Reasons published he these Fragments. as a Warning to *Israel*, and his Children after him. Let not any One, therefore, say that

that he is light-minded, or that he goeth about to sow Sedition in the Land. With a pure Heart and undefiled Hands hath he done it, and he careth not what the Ungodly say.

the King waxed mighty in Wealth and in Power, and there was none like unto him amongst all the Kings that had gone before him.

and his family had always been faithful Adherents to the House of David; nor, when ever wanted, shall his Son's sword be tardy in their Service, or his Pen not be employed to promote their Honour: Like his Father only he disliketh the New wives, with all them that seek to be in the Land. For these Reasons published he these Warnings as a Warning to David, and his Children after him. Let not any One, therefore, say